

Heavy Smoking No Cause Of Cancer, Doctor Claims

2½ Packs Daily Smoke Irritants' Source, Not Disease's Reason, Pitt Seminar Told

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Smoking two-and-a-half packs of cigarettes daily won't "cause" lung cancer, a University of Southern California pathologist declared here yesterday.

"Cigaretts are not a source" of the cause of cancer; rather they are a source of smoke "irritants" said Dr. Paul Kotin, before the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health seminar.

If people who don't smoke and don't breathe polluted air get lung cancer, those who do these things should get lung cancer earlier than the others. They don't, said Dr. Kotin. (About 10 per cent of heavy cigarette smokers get lung cancer.)

But a Link

He calls cigarettes but "a link in the pathogenesis" (disease causing mechanism) of cancer.

"We are guilty of over-simplification if we talk about the 'cause' of cancer as we talk about the 'cause' of pneumonia," asserts Dr. Kotin.

Cigarette smoking may open the lung cell doors to cancer, he conjectured.

Dr. Kotin and his colleagues have been using air pollution as a tool—to study the factors of living environment in relation to the causes of cancer.

Virtually all tumors, cancerous or not, are due in greater or less degree to the world we live in, he believes. He said such tumors are affected by that environment.

"Cancer isn't 'caused,'" he emphasized. "Cancer is the end stage" of changes in the body cells.

Duplicate Smog

Sex differences may sharply influence the development of cancer, according to Dr. Kotin. Female hormones may block development of certain cancers in women, while male hormones "might give carcinogenesis (development of cancer) a one-way ticket."

Dr. Kotin's group duplicated the smog atmosphere of Los Angeles and exposed rats and other animals to it under controlled conditions.

They found that natural defense in the lung area, such as the hairlike cilia and mucous, were weakened and broken down under continual assault by the smoggy air—all of which contains such as 3, 4 Benzpyrene.

It was also discovered that body protein substances were able to pick out and take up the cancer "causing" substances, once the cell defenses were shattered.

The study's statistics showed that gasoline engine exhaust polluted the air heavily with cancer-causing benzpyrene.

Allegheny County's own Bureau of Air Pollution Control, when set up under Herbert J. Dunsmore in the Health Department to enforce a pending new smoke control ordinance, is expected to investigate auto gasoline fumes as well as industrial gases and vapors, as they affect public health.

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Says Cigaretts Not Cause of Cancer

Cigarette lovers can breathe may open the lung cell doors cilia and mucous — broken easier. to cancer, but cancer is caused down.

Smoke and polluted air don't cause lung cancer, according to a University of Southern California pathologist — they just "irritate the lungs."

Dr. Paul Kotin yesterday told a Pitt Graduate School of Public Health seminar:

"Cancer isn't caused. Cancer is the end stage of changes in the body cells."

He said cigarette smoking

Sex differences may influence the development of cancer, he said.

Female hormones may block development of certain cancers in women, while male hormones might aid cancer development.

He said rats exposed to Los Angeles-type smog over an extended period had their natural lung defenses—hairlike

However, he added, persons who smoke two and a half packs of cigarettes a day and breathe polluted air don't get cancer earlier than persons who don't.

He said only about ten per cent of heavy cigarette smokers get lung cancer.

The Allegheny County Bureau of Air Pollution Control is going to study effects of air pollution in the district on public health.

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